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***Superintendent of Schools***

David A. Cox, Ed.D.

November 17, 2009

Diana Lopez  
20 N. Wacker Drive  
Suite 3330  
Chicago, IL 60606

Dear Ms. Lopez:

Thank you for your Freedom of Information Act request dated November 2, 2009. Please be advised that the actual title of the actual law in Maryland is the Maryland Public Information Act.

In any event, we would respond to your inquiry as follows:

1. I am aware of no contract that the local Board of Education has with any of the lobbyists, etc., which you have listed in your inquiry.
2. The Allegany County Board of Education is a member of MABE, Maryland Association of Boards of Education. This organization, however, is not limited to lobbying activities. Rather, it performs a variety of services for its member institutions.
3. The Maryland Association of Boards of Education is much more than a lobbyist. It charges dues to its members. These dues are based upon the number of students in the educational system. During the time period in question, the Allegany County Board of Education made the following payments to MABE: July 2004 - \$10,056.00; July 2005 - \$10,448.00; July 2006 - \$10,963.00; July 2007 - \$11,583.00; July 2008 - \$12,160.00; and July 2009 - \$12,122.00.

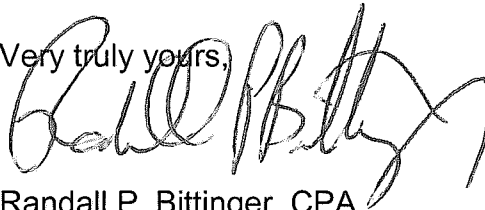
4. As stated above, the Maryland Association of Boards of Education is much more than a lobbyist. The Board of Education consults with MABE on a variety of issues. If you have a specific request concerning a specific issue, it is possible that we can provide you with some documentation. Otherwise, it is very difficult to describe all contacts with the Maryland Association of Boards of Education. Notwithstanding this admonition, you are free to inspect and copy all such communications if you make

specific arrangements to visit our office. I have no knowledge of any specific request pertaining to lobbying activity. Similarly, I have no information concerning such inquiries or correspondence or e-mails from Board members.

5. The School Board has an annual meeting with the legislative delegation. At this meeting, the School Board provides coffee and doughnuts at an expense of less than \$50.00. The School Board members and some staff occasionally attend a reception known as The Pace Reception. The School Board does not sponsor, fund or otherwise underwrite the reception. The School Board purchases tickets to the event for those who attend. In 2008, the total purchase was \$460.00.

I trust that this is responsive to your inquiry.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randall P. Bittinger", written over the typed name.

Randall P. Bittinger, CPA  
Director of Finance

RPB:tam